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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Neal B. Gittleman

Art Unit :3732

Serial no.: 10/034,538

Filing date: 01/02/2004

Examiner of Application: Cary E. O'Conner

Expandable Dental Implant Apparatus

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Amended Response to Second Office Action

Sir:

With respect to obviousness under 35 U.S.C. Paragraph 102(a) in claim 10:

The Choung patent 6332778 differs from this invention.

The cap 50 is optional in the Choung patent in col. 5 line 62. The cap 50 is screwed on the end and is removed for some installations. Applicant's invention has the end ferrule (cap) permanently attached to prevent rotation. Choung appears to want the cap optional in order to allow the prongs of the lower portion of fixture body 10 to expand outward to the greatest extent at the uncapped end. In the case where the cap is used, the sides are flexed outward by means of a traveling nut 60 within the bore 'C' of the Choung fixture body 10. Applicant's invention relies upon inherently flexible side vanes to bow outward when the top and bottom permanently attached ferrules are displaced toward each other, owing to their natural flexibility and are not forced outward by a traveling nut riding upward on a threaded shaft within the bore.

Gittleman Reply to second office response. Spiral04.doc


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Applicant's invention, while root shaped like the Choung device, has fewer working parts and relies upon a different mechanism to expand the sides. The permanent importance of the end ferrule is ignored by Chuong. Applicant relies upon a through-hole to allow some range of side rib expansion.

With respect to the correction of claim 6 please remove the duplicate word 'comprised' from the amended claim in the first response to the office action dated 8-20-2003.

Respectfully submitted.



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